

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Charles M. Wallin for receiving the 2002 Hall of Fame Award from Sanger Chamber of Commerce. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Wallin for his community service and wishing him many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 93, H.R. 1374, the Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 94, H.R. 4156, the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act (as amended). Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 95, H.R. 4167, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Extension Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL IN BOUND BROOK, NJ

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and administration of the Bound Brook Little League on the 50th anniversary of Little League Baseball in Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Nothing symbolizes the springtime and the onset of warmer weather like the first pitch of the baseball season. A season's first pitch is always a special moment, but on Saturday, April 20, the first pitch ceremony of the Bound Brook Little League commemorates 50 years of little league baseball in the community.

Over the years, little league baseball has become a fixture in Bound Brook. The little league does more than merely teach the youth of the area about our national pastime. It fosters camaraderie with teammates, instills respect for fellow competitors, and teaches youngsters that sports are about much more than winning and losing.

On April 20, the community of Bound Brook will come together to have a parade followed by exhibition baseball games to mark the 50th anniversary of the little league. This day of celebration will bring together former and current players and is symbolic of the organization's meaning to the area. The little league brings the community together to give adults the opportunity to share their love of baseball and teach kids lessons that they will carry throughout their lives.

I commend Bound Brook Little Leaguers, past and present, and the many friends of the little league that have helped mold the lives of so many youngsters throughout the past 50 years.

HONORING DR. FRED B. KESSLER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Fred B. Kessler who has been selected The Houston Surgical Society's "Distinguished Houston Surgeon" for 2002. Dr. Kessler's family, colleagues, and friends will honor him at the society's meeting on May 21, 2002.

Dr. Kessler has dedicated his life to our country and to the world of surgical medicine. He was born on December 18, 1931, in Houston, TX. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1952 and obtained his medical degree in 1956 from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. Dr. Kessler interned at the Philadelphia General Hospital from 1956–1957 and completed his residency training at the Hospital University of Pennsylvania. He returned to Houston after completing his fellowship at Roosevelt Hospital in New York in 1963.

Dr. Kessler is currently Clinical Professor of Surgery and Co-Fellowship Director of the Plastic Surgery Hand Service at Baylor College of Medicine. He has served on numerous committees for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the American Medical Association, published numerous articles and chapters, and served as associate editor of the Journal of Hand Surgery.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Dr. Kessler has distinguished himself as a spectacular surgeon, consummate educator and an integral part of the Houston community. It is with great honor that I congratulate him on this outstanding recognition of his commitment to the field of medicine.

HONORING MR. DEAN STANLEY SHELTON

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Staff Sergeant Dean Stanley Shelton who proudly served in the United States Army and recently received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals of honor.

Raised in Kansas, Mr. Shelton was drafted on February 8, 1951 at age twenty-one, and first served in Germany. During his time there he met his soon to be wife, Greta. Once his service abroad was completed, Mr. Shelton came back to the United States and was stationed at Fort Custer, Michigan where he received an Honorable Discharge on January 30, 1955.

However, due to his dedication and love of service, Mr. Shelton re-enlisted in the Army on June 27, 1955. Once again duty sent him to Germany, South Korea, and South Vietnam.

It was in Vietnam, assigned to Company A, Fourth Engineering Battalion, Fourth Infantry Division, where Staff Sergeant Shelton sustained injuries during combat. On March 26, 1968, the Third Battalion Fire Support Base came under intense enemy ground, rocket, and mortar attack. During these events, Spe-

cialist Shelton sustained injuries while positioned in a bunker defending the base perimeter.

Although his fellow soldiers and the U.S. Army recognized his personal bravery, due to his severe medical condition and evacuation to U.S. hospitals, there was unfortunately not time to present his medals when they were actually awarded. On the battlefield, Shelton showed uncommon valor, dedication, and sacrifice that cannot be instilled in training.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending an awards ceremony on April 8, 2002, when Mr. Shelton finally received his medals. This nation has not forgotten his tremendous service. I would like to thank Staff Sergeant Shelton in keeping with the highest tradition of armed service, and selflessly defending the lives of his fellow soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 93, H.R. 1374, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING SHARON K. DARLING

HON. ANNE M. NORTHP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mrs. NORTHP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a truly inspiring woman in my district, Ms. Sharon Darling. Ms. Darling has been honored as a 2001 recipient of the prestigious National Humanities Medal. Next month, Ms. Darling will receive her award in a personal presentation from President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

As a tireless advocate for education and literacy, Ms. Darling has worked hard to improve and reform the education system. While serving in many capacities throughout her career, she has always remained steadfast in her pursuit of this very noble goal. Ms. Darling pioneered a program that combines early childhood education, adult literacy education, parental support and structured interaction between parents and their children. Encouraged by positive results, Ms. Darling founded the National Center for Family Literacy in 1989. Since its inception, NCFL, which is located in Louisville, Kentucky, has been dedicated to family literacy. Their efforts are internationally recognized, and NCFL is well-known for creating innovative program models, developing effective advocacy strategies and providing research, training and technical assistance to professionals working within the field of family literacy.

Ms. Darling and the NCFL realize the importance of education and literacy. Without the ability to access knowledge, people will not have the tools necessary to fight their way out of impoverishment, and to empower themselves. Ms. Darling serves as an advisor on education issues to governors, policy makers, business leaders and foundations across the nation. By providing advice and creative planning strategies, Ms. Darling works toward